

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of May 1, 2006 is gratefully acknowledged.

The objection of claim 18 is noted. Accordingly, claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 28. New claim 28 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 15 - 17 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Epstein is noted. To insure that claim 15 - 17 better define over Epstein, claim 15 has been amended to recite that digital data is transferred to the central unit. This is not the case with Epstein. According to the present invention, different measurement modules are connected with a central unit, and each measurement module is selectable by the central unit on the basis of a selection line assigned to the measurement module. As can be seen from Fig. 1, a selection line goes from the central unit to each of the measurement modules. The communication between the measurement module and the central unit is digital and not analog. This is clear to the person skilled in the art, as such is mentioned in discussing the state of the art which states that one needs special interface controllers which are expensive. This makes sense only with digital data.

In view of the noted amendment to claim 15, both it and claims 16 and 17 should be allowable over Epstein.

New claim 29 is being submitted to recite a feature of the invention according to which it should be clear that only the selected measurement module is able to send data to the central unit. This feature is also not found in the art of record.

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/510,072

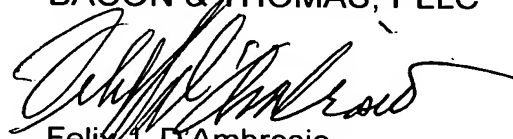
There remains for consideration, the rejection of claims 19 - 27 under 35 USC 101. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is assumed that the reference to claims 6 - 14 is intended to be claims 19 - 27. The steps defined in claim 19 define a method according to which a selection is made by the central unit over a selection line. This is a complete definition of the method aspect of the invention, in abroad sense. While it is broad, it is complete and certainly in accord with 35 USC 101. This rejection should, therefore, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 15 - 17, 19-27 and 29 found allowable along with claim 28.

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Respectfully submitted,
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